

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being added or cancelled.

Claims 1-4, 51 and 59 are currently being amended. Support for these amendments made by found, for example, in paragraphs 0025 and 0038 of the specification, as well as in other portions of the specification.

This amendment and reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4, 25-32, 50, 51 and 59 are pending in this application for examination on the merits, in which claims 5-18, 21, 22, 33-38, 40-49, 52-58 and 60-78 are also pending but are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions.

Claim Rejections – Written Description Requirement:

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 25-32 and 50 were rejected under U.S.C § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Due to the amendments made to presently pending independent claim 1 to remove the language that allegedly did not have written description support in the specification, this rejection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claim 59 was rejected under U.S.C § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,345,111 to Yamaguchi et al., and claims 1-4, 25-32, 50 and 51 were rejected under U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. in view of Peng et al. (“Probabilistic Feature Relevance Learning . . .”). These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

As recited in presently pending independent claims 1, 51 and 59, the image similarity between an inquiry image and a reference image is calculated by comparing a feature quantity for each divided small region of the inquiry image with a feature quantity for each divided small region of the reference image, using an image-region-based weight value calculated based on a probability for an editing process to be applied to an image for each local region.

The above features make it possible to eliminate the effect of a highly possibly edited region during calculation of image similarities and to yield a large value for the image similarity between an edited image and the original image (e.g., see paragraph 0017 of the specification).

At least the above features of presently pending independent claims 1, 51 and 59 are not disclosed or suggested by Yamaguchi et al. (e.g., Figure 14 and column 16, lines 54-63) and Peng et al. (e.g., pages 152-153, column 2).

Accordingly, presently pending independent claims 1, 51 and 59 patentably distinguish over the combined teachings of Yamaguchi et al. and Peng et al.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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